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DEVELOPMENT OF NATIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL MEASURES AND
STRATEGIES TO PREVENT AND ELIMINATE CONTEMPORARY FORMS
OF SLAVERY: ENCOURAGEMENT OF THE CREATION OF NATIONAL
INSTITUTIONS FOR THE PREVENTION OF PROSTITUTION AND THE
ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL REINTEGRATION OF PROSTITUTES

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1. Traffic in women is international and it is organized on a large scale. The majority of the women are brought to Europe from South-East Asia, Latin America and some regions of Africa. The traffic can also occur between countries of the same continent and from one European country to the other.
2. In the last 10 years, the presence of prostitutes from third-world countries on the European prostitution market has become a structural and permanent social phenomenon. Their numbers are growing steadily and the situation of marginalization and the lack of social welfare in which they live is becoming increasingly critical.
3. The precariousness and objective weakness of their position, as well as the many factors that cause it, urgently require not only the adoption of an active policy in the different areas but also, considering how widely the women circulate in the European countries, the adoption of common European policies and international guidelines.

4. With a view to emancipating and protecting the migrant prostitutes, specific instruments for action should be created in order to increase and develop some genuine alternatives for life and work, both in the country of origin and in the host country. The best instrument to combat the phenomenon of the traffic and all the forms of exploitation of the persons involved in it is the strengthening of the social position and the economic status of these women.

5. As far as the social welfare and the protection of the women are concerned, this will take the form of the establishment and development of institutions and foundations which have an expert staff who understand their problems.

6. The field of legal action is very broad. It can also be said, again with a view to emancipation and protection, that a distinction should be made between two policies: one of legal protection for persons who are victims of the traffic and one of combating the organization of the traffic, enforced prostitution and the prostitution of minors.

7. Prevention and information also constitute an area of action which, like legal action, given the international nature and migratory aspect of the traffic, can only yield results through a policy of international action and cooperation.

8. This calls for international policies and agreements between countries and Governments, as well as greater cooperation between non-governmental and grass-roots organizations.

9. It is also important that such activities should be able to reach the women both in their countries of origin and in the host countries.

10. Moreover, such activities and cooperation should take place on "neutral" ground and not through any bodies or organizations which could utilize them for purposes of coercion or repression. The experiments in the countries where such activities and cooperation were carried out by groups of women, grass-roots organizations and prostitutes' organizations have yielded positive results.

11. Given the social and international scale of the problem, it is essential that priority should be given to active intervention by the organizations providing economic support for those regions in cooperation with local organizations, in order to establish the form, resources and purposes of the projects.

12. It is also vitally important to improve the international communication channels and the networks of those organizations, including the prostitutes' groups or their support groups and the other groups and organizations which have contacts with prostitutes migrating to Europe.

Recommendations

13. Considering that:

The presence in Europe of prostitutes from the developing countries has, over the last 10 years, become a social phenomenon that has acquired a permanent and structural character,

On the one hand, the number of these women is constantly increasing while, on the other hand, the situation of social marginalization and the lack of social welfare in which they live is becoming more and more critical,

A repressive European policy (concerning prostitution and the frequently illegal presence of the migrant prostitutes) is futile and incompatible with the aim of protecting the victims of the traffic and the persons who engage in prostitution of their own volition,

It is recommended that the following measures should be taken:

(a) The establishment of a special European commission to coordinate and promote joint social policies for the protection, support and defence of the migrant prostitutes;

(b) Support for and assistance in creating migrant prostitutes' organizations and support organizations;

(c) Specific projects for the education, vocational training, legal and social assistance and guided and voluntary re-emigration of the migrant prostitutes;

(d) The setting up of special health assistance programmes using qualified personnel who know the mother tongue of the persons whom they are looking after;

(e) The appointment of reliable persons to work as contacts between the prostitutes and the various authorities of the country, and who should be in a position to guarantee the anonymity and protection of their clients;

(f) A European study (working group) which will make it possible to create a legal status that by recognizing the specific situation of these women, enables those who so desire to reside in a European country with a residence permit in their own name. The granting of a residence permit, even a temporary one, issued on humanitarian grounds, for example, would assure those persons of some measure of independence and protection. Legal residence in a European country would also enable these women to denounce the persons who trafficked in them or even those who were taking advantage of them.

14. Considering that the organization of the traffic in women has an international character and that this involves international migrations of women,

It has become important to develop a policy of international cooperation in the areas of prevention and information.

It is recommended that women who are contemplating leaving their country should be informed about the real conditions of life and work abroad, and of the possibility or otherwise of entering a country legally. It is also necessary to inform the women who have knowingly chosen to work in prostitution. In such cases, they should be told what opportunities exist in that sector and be given an indication as to the means that can enable them to work independently.

The area of prevention implies not only better information but also a number of activities, economic and educational assistance and assistance in vocational training, enabling the women to become more independent and better able to withstand the various forms of exploitation, including sexual exploitation. In pursuit of these goals, an international commission could be formed for the following purposes:

- (a) To develop policies of international solidarity;
- (b) To make an inventory of projects in these two areas proposed by prostitutes' organizations, grass-roots and non-governmental organizations, in the countries of origin of the migrant prostitutes;
- (c) To support the prostitutes' organizations and the solidarity groups and draw up an inventory and make an evaluation of the projects already existing in these areas;
- (d) To encourage and coordinate better cooperation between the continents (in the countries of origin and the countries of destination) and information between the organizations which support and assist the migrant prostitutes.

15. Considering that repressive measures against the traffic should in no way endanger the physical security of the migrant prostitutes or make these women more dependent,

Having regard, furthermore, to the fact that to date the international agreements have proved to be inadequate and hardly applied in practice, as far as combating the traffic in persons and protecting the human rights of the victims of this traffic is concerned,

On the basis of these considerations, an international working group could be formed with the specific tasks of:

- (a) Analysing how the current international agreements can be revised and rendered more effective;
- (b) Developing two separate and specific action strategies (concerning the legal definitions, the investigation and research methods and the implementation of the measures against the traffic);

(c) The first area of action is the fight against organized crime at the international level and against the organizations which control and create the traffic in persons. The second area consists of measures to guarantee the legal protection and the human rights of the persons who are victims of this traffic.

Protection of fundamental human rights also means protection of the freedom of movement, travel and complete freedom to dispose of one's body as one chooses. Moreover, all kinds of special surveillance conditions with respect to prostitutes and all forms of discrimination should be considered as violations of human rights.

16. Considering that there is little information and few representative and relevant data on this phenomenon,

It is recommended that research both qualitative and quantitative, which can help to further knowledge about the traffic in persons and the presence of migrant prostitutes in Europe should be encouraged and supported.

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